GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:433
ANSWERED ON:19.07.2016
Production of Arhar and Urad
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of Arhar and Urad pulses produced in the country during each of the last three years and the current year along with the quantum of such pulses procured by the Union Government and State agencies during the said period, State/ UT-wise;

(b) whether the production of such varieties of pulses is likely to decline during the current year and the steps that have been taken by the Government to import pulses to meet their shortage in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Institute of Pulses Research (IIPR) is working towards bio-intensification of pulse based cropping system, intensification of breeding programme and resource conservation, mechanization and minimizing post harvest yield loss and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government is working upon climate risk management and efficient extension models for dissemination of pulse based technologies for farmers to make the pulse cultivation more productive and remunerative in the country and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of steps taken/being taken by the Government to make the country self-sufficient in pulses?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a): State-wise details of production of Arhar and Urad in the country during 2011-12 to 2015-16 are at Annexure-I.

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Under the Price Support Scheme (PSS), Government agencies undertake procurement as and when prices fall below the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs). As the prices of Arhar (Tur) and Urad during 2014-15 onwards have remained above MSP, there was no requirement to procure the pulses under the PSS. Details of procurement of Arhar and Urad during 2013-14 are as under:-
('000 Tonnes)
Urad Arhar (Tur)
State Quantity Procured State Quantity Procured
Maharashtra 2.71 Maharashtra 22.09
Uttar Pradesh 1.95 Andhra Pradesh 21.68

Under the Price Stabilization Fund (PSF), Government of India has designated Food Corporation of India (FCI) along-with National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) and Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) for procurement of pulses for creation of buffer stock of 50000 tonnes of pulses from kharif and 100000 tonnes of pulses from rabi crops of 2015-16 at market price.

State-wise details of procurement of Arhar and Urad by above agencies during 2015-16 under PSF are at Annexure-II.

(b): As the sowing window of kharif crops including pulses is still open, it is too early to assess their production during the current year i.e. 2016-17. However, the annual production of pulses in the country has been falling short of their requirement and shortage is met through imports. In order to stabilize prices of pulses, in December 2015, the Government approved creation of buffer stock of 1.50 lakh tonnes of pulses through domestic procurement and imports.

(c): The Indian Institute of Pulses Research (IIPR) under ICAR is working towards bio-intensification of pulse based cropping systems, intensification of breeding programme and resource conservation, mechanization and minimizing post harvest yield loss. The IIPR is engaged in a number of research programmes on development of micro-irrigation, resource conservation techniques, pulse based remunerative cropping systems, mechanization in pulses cultivation and reduction in post harvest losses etc.

(d): In order to address the issue of climate risk management in agriculture including pulses (arhar, moong and urad), the ICAR is implementing an ambitious project on 'National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA)' since February 2011. This mega

project has three major objectives of strategic research, technology demonstrations and capacity building. The four modules of NICRA viz. natural resource management, improving soil health, crop production and livestock are aimed at making the farmers self-reliant.

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(e): In order to increase production of pulses in the country, the Government of India has been implementing through State Governments, the National Food Security Mission (NFSM)-Pulses since 2007-08. From 2016-17, NFSM-Pulses has been extended to 638 districts of 29 States. From 2015-16, pulses have also been included under the scheme "Bringing Green Revolution in Eastern India (BGREI) as part of demonstrations under cropping systems based approach to target rice fallow areas.

To encourage farmers to grow more pulses by ensuring remunerative prices, the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of pulses have been increased over the years. To incentivize cultivation of pulses in the country, over and above the MSPs, during 2016-17, the Government has also announced a bonus of Rs.425/- per quintal for Kharif pulses, namely Arhar (Tur), Urad and Moong.